

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. HEATH REVEALS POLITICAL STRATEGY IN POWER CUTS

PRIME MINISTER HEATH HAS ANNOUNCED DRACONIAN RESTRICTIONS OF ENERGY CONSUMPTION WHICH WILL AFFECT PRODUCTION ACROSS THE WHOLE SPECTRUM OF BRITISH INDUSTRY. THE APPARENT POLITICAL STRATEGY OF THE CUTS IS TO MAKE THE ENTIRE BRITISH PUBLIC AWARE OF THE COST OF THE OBSTINACY OF THE TRADE UNIONS AND THEREBY BRING PUBLIC PRESSURE ON THE MINERS AND RAILWAYMEN TO MODERATE THEIR DEMANDS. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 14796, 12/14.

2. ADDITIONAL DUTCH COMMENTS ON NATO MINISTERIAL

THE DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTRY'S NATO DIRECTOR TOLD EMBASSY THE HAGUE THAT THE DUTCH HAD COME AWAY FROM THE NATO MINISTERIAL WITH A GLOOMY FEELING BECAUSE OF ITS FAILURE TO BRING ABOUT ANY SUBSTANTIAL AMELIORATION OF THE EXIST-
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ING RIFTS IN THE ALLIANCE. HE SAID THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD HIGHLIGHTED A BASIC DIVERGENCE OF VIEW AS TO HOW US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF

EUROPEAN UNITY. (CONFIDENTIAL) THE HAGUE 5500, 12/14.

3. HIGH POINT IN US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS

USINT ALGIERS REPORTS THAT THE SECRETARY'S VISIT HAS RESULTED IN ALGERIAN PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF THE SECRETARY'S PEACEMAKING EFFORTS, AND BROUGHT US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS TO THEIR HIGHEST POINT IN MANY YEARS. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE, FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA SAID THE SECRETARY IS SEEKING "TO FIND A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND UNDERLINED ALGERIA'S PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THOSE EFFORTS. WHILE ALGERIA HAS NOT CALLED FOR A FULL RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, USINT FEELS THE STATEMENTS MARK A NEW STAGE IN RELATIONS, AND THESE ARE SEEN AS A SIGN THAT ALGERIA WISHES TO STRENGTHEN BOTH THE SUBSTANCE AND FORM OF THOSE TIES. (CONFIDENTIAL) ALGIERS 2601, 12/13.

4. JAPANESE REACTION TO KISSINGER ENERGY PROPOSAL

THE SECRETARY'S ENERGY PROPOSAL, OUTLINED IN HIS PILGRIM SOCIETY SPEECH IN LONDON, HAS BEEN GREETED WITH MIXED REACTIONS BY JAPANESE OFFICIALS IN TOKYO. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIDO SAID THE PLAN REQUIRED FURTHER CLARIFICATION, AND THAT JAPAN WOULD STUDY IT CAREFULLY, BUT ADDED THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE UNABLE TO EXPRESS APPROVAL FOR IT PENDING THE RETURN OF SPECIAL ENERGY ENVOY MIKI FROM HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP. FOREIGN MINISTER OHIRA SAID THE PLAN MUST BE STUDIED IN A POSITIVE MANNER, BUT NOTED THAT A NUMBER OF POINTS REMAIN TO BE CLARIFIED. MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY VICE MINISTER YAMASHITA WELCOMED THE PLAN AS LONG RANGE PROPOSAL BUT OBSERVED IT WOULD NOT HELP JAPAN SOLVE ITS IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 16188, 12/14.

5. ZAIRIAN ECONOMIC MEASURES STRAIN RELATIONS WITH BELGIUM

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EMBASSY BRUSSELS HAS LEARNED THAT ZAIRIAN MOVES TO REVISE CONTRACTS WITH THE SOCIETE GENERAL DES MINERAIS AND OTHER BELGIAN BUSINESSES IN ZAIRE MAY RESULT IN A MAJOR CRISIS. AFTER PRIVATE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 11, BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON HAS DECIDED HE CANNOT PREVENT MOBUTU FROM TAKING MEASURES AGAINST BELGIAN ENTERPRISES BUT STILL HOPES TO EXERT A MODERATING INFLUENCE TO LIMIT THEIR DAMAGING EFFECTS ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. (SECRET) BRUSSELS 7258, 12/13 (EXDIS). RUSH

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